rule as it is worded, enables permission *ad hoc* to be given; for instance a person may feel diffidence on a particular occasion about his getting the particular type of eloquence he would like to have then, and may prefer to change the language of his speech; and the President can permit it. Mr. Varughese may therefore proceed in any language that suits his convenience for the time being.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Sir, I have been authoritatively informed that early action is contemplated by Government in setting up the Boards and that the delay is due to the negotiations that are being carried on with certain Banks for the purpose of financing the Land Mortgage Bank which is expected to help the debtors to discharge the conciliated debts.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Director of Public Instruction*): I rise to a point of order, Sir. The honourable member is reading.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member is refreshing his memory by referring to his notes. (*Laughter.*)

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): As I think that an open discussion of the motion may prejudice the progress of the negotiations, I do not wish to make the motion.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): When is it expected that the Boards will be set up, according to the member's information?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): I am assured that early action is contemplated and I am satisfied with that.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): Is there any assurance that the Boards will be set up?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): I am most authoritatively informed that steps *are* being taken to set up the Boards as early as possible.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I wish to know whether there is any objection in the Government spokesman making a statement.

PRESIDENT: I suppose it is not the suggestion on the part of any honourable member that the Government want to circumvent a Statute enacted by the Legislature.

THE PALLIVASAL POWER HOUSE.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Sir, may I suggest the desirability of taking up the other adjournment motion also today, so that we may have more time for nonofficial business?

PRESIDENT: Honourable members are anxious to do some business. What does Mr. Elenkath say?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I am willing to have it taken up to day.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Can it be taken up in the absence of Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon, the Electrical Engineer, and the Chief Engineer?

PRESIDENT: I leave it to the House.

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SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Sir several members on this side of the House are also not here. They were told that this motion will be taken up only tomorrow. They may be interested in the discussion.

As the majority seemed to have no objection, the motion was taken up for discussion.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Sir, before making the motion I should like to say that there is very serious apprehension at the circumstances that necessitated Government to shift the site of the Pallivasal Power House. I should think that the Government have considered it seriously and that they have, after weighing the question, decided that it will be advantageous, in the interests of the State as well as the utility to the public, to do so. I have been informed from a very responsible source.....

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): On a point of order. Sir, we have not been supplied with a copy of the adjournment motion.

PRESIDENT: I read it out this morning; I will read it again.

"I beg leave to move that the business of the House be now adjourned to discuss definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the anxiety caused to the public by the recent Press Note published by the Chief Engineer regarding the unsatisfactory nature of the ground and sub-soil where the present Pallivasal Power House is located and the consequent decision on the part of the Government to build a Power House on a more convenient site on the banks of the Muthirampuzha river, thereby causing huge additional expenditure to the State and obvious delay in supplying power for the use of the public."

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): On consultation with the authorities, I am convinced of the wisdom of the step taken by Government, and of the fact that, though additional expenditure will have to be incurred now, in the long run, it will enable the public to get the power at the earliest opportunity. I do not, therefore, propose to make the motion.

PRESIDENT: Let me be permitted just to mention a few matters relating to this motion; and as this is a subject of paramount importance, I do not wish to take advantage of the technical rules of debate. The honourable member has not made his motion, and it is open to me to say that no further discussion is possible. I wish to make certain things clear, because I believe that is necessary from the point of view of the paramount interests of the State and the great ventures which are dependent upon this project. It would be correct to state that there were certain unexpected features that developed with regard to the Power House after it was designed and constructed. Near the site of the Power House there is a hill on one side and a hill on the other, and there is a kind of ledge in between. The events of last year disclosed that, below the site of the Power House, there was evidently some material which was not absolutely solid rock but what may be termed a kind of jelly-like conglomerate composed of rock and some semi-liquid matter. This could not be foreseen by ordinary means, because all round it is rock; and borings up to a depth of about 60 feet in the region near the Muthirapuzha river disclosed that there was

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solid rock all round near the new site. Curiously enough, perhaps owing to some kind of "fault" in the formation of the rock, underneath the Power House site, there seems to be this semi-solid sub-soil. The result is that the experience of the last monsoon made evident very minute cracks, visible not far from the actual location of the Power House. It was at that time not considered that this would very seriously prejudice the work. But further cracks have appeared in the last few weeks and opinion has been taken on this matter. Expert opinion is to the effect that with the expenditure of a considerable sum of money nearly equal to or perhaps even exceeding the amount necessary for the construction of a new Power House, we may be able to render more secure the foundation, by such processes as grouting but even this scheme was not regarded as 100 per cent. efficacious. After most careful and anxious consideration Government arrived at the following conclusion. The amount involved in this whole scheme exceeds a crore of rupees. A considerable portion of that amount had been either spent or will shortly be spent on the various sub-stations, transmission lines, electrical apparatus, pen-stock, generating sets and so forth. The Power House is after all a comparatively insignificant factor from the point of view of cost, though an important one from other points of view. The Power House is merely a shed. But in that shed is located very heavy machinery, machinery weighing tons upon tons. The shed itself is of very little value. But the foundations have to be laid in order to bear the whole of the weight of the machinery which has to encounter many stresses and strains, and has therefore to be quite stable on its base. If the foundations are laid on shifting sub-soil the machinery will crack; the subterranean forces may become so great that no machinery can stand the strain. In fact, the very weight of the machinery will add to the danger. Therefore it will be a policy characterisable as penny-wise and pound-foolish if, in order to save extra expenditure on a new Power House, we insist on keeping the whole of the generating plant there. It may be that next year the process of cracking may not happen. But the year after it may happen, and the machinery may crack. Then Government will have to purchase fresh machinery costing 30 or 40 lakhs of rupees. Therefore Government came to the conclusion that the Power House should be located in a site about which there can be no possible suspicion as they do not desire to take any chances. Such a site is fortunately available very near at hand.

There is another aspect. Suppose there is no difficulty immediately, and we go on. Suppose various ventures are started and are promised power. If, in the course of the working of the scheme, any crack develops, we may have to stop the working of the whole machinery. That means that we shall not be able to supply power to the various concerns; and the Sassoons or some other concern will say that they lose so much every day for want of power and that we must pay damages. We may have to pay heavy compensation. In order to avoid all these risks it has been considered essential and expedient that a site should be chosen where the foundations will be so

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[President.]

secure that nothing short of a cataclysm—if there is an earthquake nobody can help it—will produce an interruption in the supply of power. For that purpose borings have been taken so that the foundations may be laid on solid rock fifty or sixty feet deep underneath the Power House. Fortunately we are getting a suitable site within about 120 yards of the present house on the banks of the river. It is part of the rocky formation on the bank of the river.

I want to take this House into full confidence. This is not a small matter. The name of His Highness is on the Power House. But the reasons for shifting the location of the Power House are so great that we came to the conclusion notwithstanding this circumstance. It may be that in the result we may have to lose two or three lakhs of rupees. It is certainly not more but it is much better to spend two or three lakhs now rather than incur terrible responsibility in the future and incur much greater loss later in all probability.

I may say in addition that while no doubt on the one side Government may have to sustain this loss on the Power House, on account of the very prudent advice for which I cannot sufficiently praise the Electrical Engineer we are gainers on account of our contract for the purchase of copper. Orders for copper on a large scale were placed when it was selling at Rs. 40, so that when the price of copper has risen up now on account of the war scare, we are making fifty per cent. profit on every ounce we have ordered. We have gained over three lakhs of rupees on account of the wise advice of the Electrical Engineer. Thus in apportioning blame we must remember that while officers may commit some mistakes under circumstances beyond their contemplation, they are doing their best for Government according to their lights. Government will stand by their officers so long as they are loyal and straight and put forth their best efforts. At the same time they cannot afford to take risks. Government have entered into arrangements with various industrial concerns, and they are bound and are prepared, to carry them out somehow. Even if we have to work for twenty-four hours a day in order to see that power is supplied in proper time so as not to jeopardise our industrial schemes, Government will arrange for this being done and will see that power is supplied according to contract. I do not wish to say any thing more but wish to assure the House that Government are acting in this matter with a full sense of their great responsibility. (*Cheers.*)

The House adjourned at 2-7 P. M.

P. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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